

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, March 10, 1879, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Boston, March 10th, 1879. My dear May:

"The National Bell Telephone" has now a real existence — and the Board of Directors appointed are now discussing the appointment of President, Vice President and Executive Committee but of course I cannot attend as I am not a Director. I don't know how it will end. They want either Mr. Hubbard President and not on the Executive Committee or — they would place him on the Executive Committee — and not make him President.

How it is to end we cannot tell. I enclose a cheque for one thousand one hundred and ninety-six dollars (\$1196.00) all for you my dear — the dividend due on your N. E. Telephone Company's stock. I also forward my cheque for \$250.00 for my salary which please pay over to my account in the bank. I forward you my personal cheque for twenty-five dollars but take care you don't cash it until you first deposited my two hundred and fifty. Let Miss Sumner know that she can now cash her cheque any time she wants.

You better go down to the bank with your mother and open an account in your own name and get a cheque book of your own so that you may draw if you went to — but darling — if your husband's advice is worth anything don't spend any of the money just now — until we are fairly out of our difficulties and can feel that the day will not come when we may need that money. I don't want you to spend it merely because you have it. It is all we have to fall back upon in the shape of cash in case of any unexpected mishaps or misfortunes. If I were you I would not spend any of it until you have obtained some cash from the cheque due to you from the old Bell Telephone Association — now in Mr. Sanders hands — nor would I rely upon ever getting the money for that cheque until you have 2 got it. There! There is my advice — now think over the matter and do just as you like my sweet wife. If

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you went to go and spend it all right off for dresses or presents or anything — just do it — Your poor husband can't stop you and in the second place he wouldn't if he could — for the money is your own — your first income at your own disposal.

The Directors have not held their meeting after all. They were just going to vote for President — and I don't know how they would have acted — but your father reminded them that no notice had been given of the meeting — and that therefore legally they could transact no business. The meeting has therefore been postponed until tomorrow — and I intend to propose to these gentlemen that your father and Mr. Sanders be President and Vice-President and that both should be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee without power to vote. I shall also ask them to consider my position in relation to the Company, as I do not wish to be re-elected as Electrician.

How my dear — good-bye.

Your loving husband, Alec. P. S. Resume. 1. Deposit cheque for \$1196.00 in you own name and get cheque book. 2. Deposit cheque for \$250.00 in my name. 3. Cash cheque for \$25.00 after depositing my salary. Alec. March 10th, 1879. A. G. Bell to Mrs. Bell.